



### NUCLEIC ACIDS

**DNA**

- Double helix
- NOT made of amino acids

**Deoxyribose** + **phosphate** + **base** = **nucleotide**

### NUCLEIC ACIDS

**RNA**

- Single helix
- Uracil
- tRNA, mRNA, rRNA

**Ribose** + **phosphate** + **base** = **nucleotide**

### NUCLEIC ACIDS STORE AND TRANSMIT HEREDITARY INFORMATION

- Two types of nucleic acids:
  - ribonucleic acid (RNA)
  - deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA).
- DNA provides direction for its own replication.
- DNA also directs RNA synthesis and, through RNA, controls protein synthesis.
- Organisms inherit DNA from their parents.

### A NUCLEIC ACID STRAND IS A POLYMER OF NUCLEOTIDES

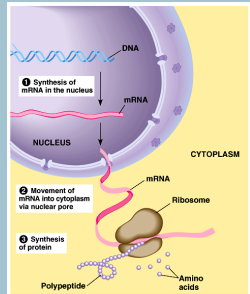
- Nucleic acids are made from repeating **nucleotide** units.
- Nucleotide components:
  - a nitrogen base
  - a pentose sugar (deoxyribose or ribose)
  - a phosphate group

**RNA & DNA** are chains of nucleotides



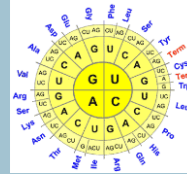
## The Central Dogma: The flow of genetic information is from DNA -> RNA -> protein

- Protein synthesis occurs in ribosomes
- In eukaryotes, DNA is located in the nucleus, but most ribosomes are in the cytoplasm with mRNA as an intermediary
  - So how will we get this genetic code to where it needs to be?



## WHAT DO GENES DO?

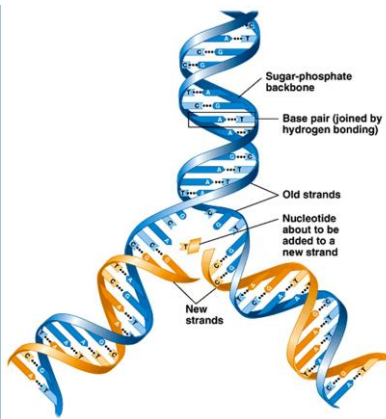
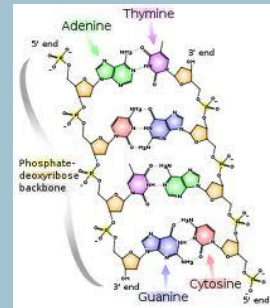
- Each gene in a strand of DNA is the code for a single protein
- Recall that proteins are what DO everything in your body
- The order of nucleotides in genes, organized in “the triplet code,” is what determines the order of amino acids in the protein
- Three nucleotides determine one amino acid



	U	C	A	G
U	UUU } Phe UUC } UUA } Leu UUG }	UCU } Ser UCC } UCA } UCG }	UAU } Tyr UAC } UAA } Stop UAG }	UGU } Cys UGC } UGA } Stop UGG } Trp
C	CUU } Leu CUC } CUA } CUG }	CCU } Pro CCC } CCA } CCG }	CAU } His CAC } CAA } Gln CAG }	CGU } Arg CGC } CGA } CGG }
A	AUU } Ile AUC } AUA } AUG } Met	ACU } Thr ACC } ACA } ACG }	AAU } Asn AAC } AAA } Lys AAG }	AGU } Ser AGC } AGA } Arg AGG }
G	GUU } Val GUC } GUA } GUG }	GCU } Ala GCC } GCA } GCG }	GAU } Asp GAC } GAA } Glu GAG }	GGU } Gly GGC } GGA } GGG }

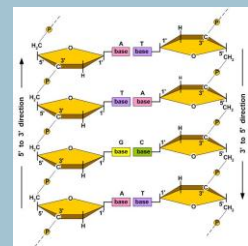
## DNA STRUCTURE

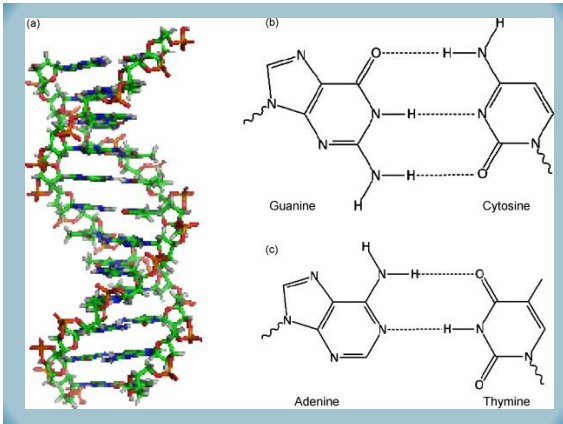
- Double helix
- Nucleotides in the middle
- Nucleotides bond to deoxyribose-phosphate “backbone”



## BASE PAIRING RULES:

- In DNA, adenine (A) always pairs with thymine (T) and guanine (G) with cytosine (C).
- With these base-pairing rules, if we know the sequence of bases on one strand, we know the sequence on the opposite strand.
- The two strands are complementary.
- “Go Climb A Tree”





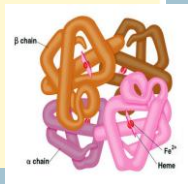
**WE CAN USE DNA AND PROTEINS AS TAPE MEASURES OF EVOLUTION**

- DNA molecules are passed from parents to offspring, so...
  - siblings have greater similarity than unrelated individuals of the same species.
  - This argument can help develop a molecular genealogy between species.
- Two species that appear to be closely-related based on fossil and molecular evidence should also be more similar in DNA and protein sequences.
- The sequence of amino acids in hemoglobin molecules differ by only one amino acid between humans and gorilla → BEAUTIFUL!!

**Table 5.2 Polypeptide Sequence as Evidence for Evolutionary Relationships**

Number of Amino Acid Differences in the  $\beta$  Chain of Hemoglobin, Compared to Human Hemoglobin (Total Chain Length = 146 Amino Acids)

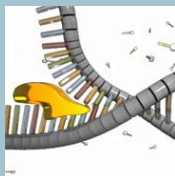
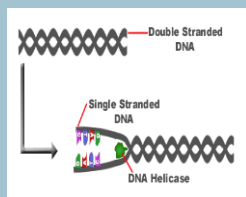
Species	Number of Amino Acid Differences
Human	0
Gorilla	1
Gibbon	2
Rhesus monkey	8
Mouse	27
Frog	67



# DNA REPLICATION

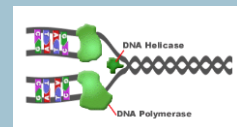
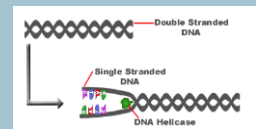
## DNA UNWINDING

- First step in replication
- Double helix unwound by **topoisomerase**
- Double helix is “unzipped” by the enzyme **DNA helicase**
- Enzyme breaks apart the hydrogen bonds between each set of base pairs
  - A-T have 2 hydrogen bonds compared to 3 hydrogen bonds in G-C

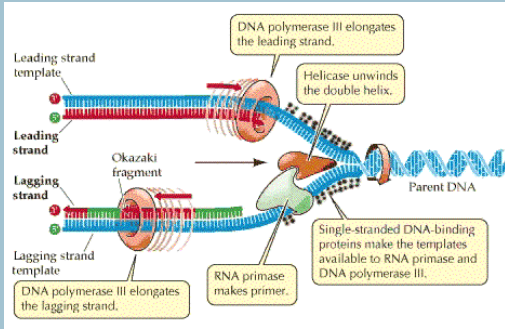


## BEGINNING TO BUILD THE NEW DNA STRANDS

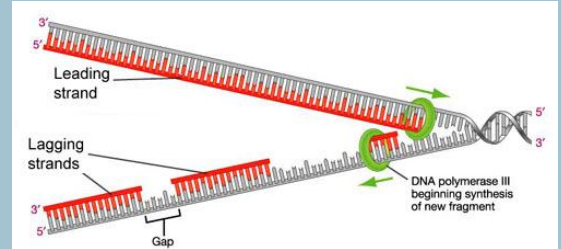
- As the DNA molecule is “unzipped,” new complementary strands are built up along each parent strand
- Creates a “replication fork”
- This process is accomplished by the enzyme **DNA polymerase**
- Attaches new nucleotides to the free 3' end of the deoxyribose sugar



### 3' TO 5' PRIME CHAIN BUILDING:

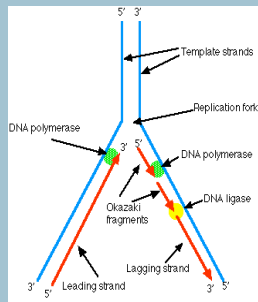


- Continuous 3' to 5' building is what creates the **LEADING STRAND**



### LEADING AND LAGGING STRANDS

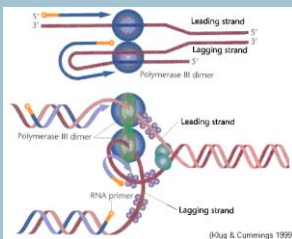
- While DNA polymerase builds DNA up in the leading strand direction...
- A slightly different type of DNA polymerase begins building in the 3' to 5' direction
- Creates discontinuous sections of DNA called **Okazaki fragments**, marked off by **RNA primase**
- This is because DNA can only build from a 3' to 5' direction (can only attach to the 3' end)
- Referred to as the **LAGGING STRAND**



### LEADING AND LAGGING STRANDS

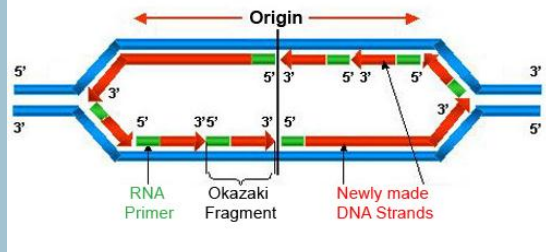
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtLXpgjHLo&feature=related>

### MEMORY TRICK



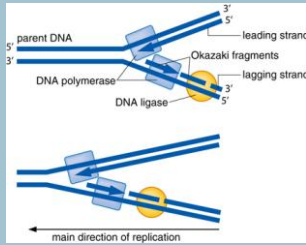
- **Leading strand:** LEADS the way, moves continually in the same direction
- **Lagging strand:** LAGS behind because it is building DNA in small sections

### Replication Fork



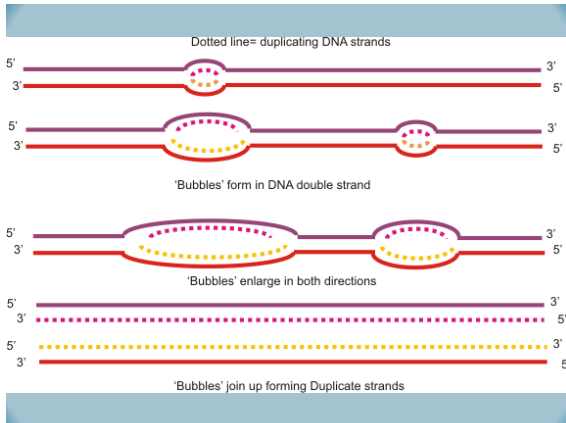
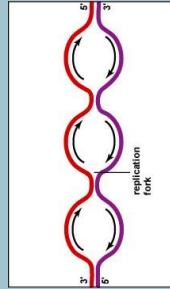
### DNA CLEAN-UP

- **DNA ligase** comes in and adds in any additional phosphates needed to complete the DNA chain



### SPEED OF REPLICATION

- Average human chromosome is  $150 \times 10^6$  nucleotides long.
- Nucleotides are copied at about 50 BP a second
- Replicating a single DNA molecule would take a month, except...
- Multiple points of origin of replication which leads to replication bubbles



- Crash Course, DNA and Replication (this is great and you're not going to make fun of it): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kK2zWjRVoM>
- Simulation: <http://www.johnkyrk.com/DNAreplication.html>